

July 12, 1970

Albert S. Walton Jr.
R. D. 2
Newark, Delaware 19711

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 7
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your letter of July 9th. You asked me a few very important questions, and I will get to these first.

The editor of the Wilmington Independent is Tom DeBaggio. He came from Indiana to work for the News-Journal, and was a reporter on that paper for about nine months. I am sure that you are familiar with the fact that the News-Journal is owned lock, stock and barrel by the DuPonts and that they censor stringently through their lackeys on the editorial board. Tom DeBaggio is the kind of brilliant journalist who refused to be muzzled by the DuPonts or anyone else. Many of his stories would tread on pet institutions or taboo subjects, and the editors would censor them outright or scissor them up so badly that their meaning was miserably distorted. Finally, they cut up one too many of Tom's stories, and in August, 1969, he resigned from the News-Journal.

It is only recently that Tom has been working on his Independent. It is certainly no underground paper; it is on sale on newsstands statewide. The first issue is already out. It is 24 pages long and is priced at 50 cents a copy. It is supposed to come out each month, and I have great faith that it will, but the financial condition of fledgling newspapers is usually precarious. Especially with the News-Journal as competition.

You asked how I found out about your suit. Luckily, Tom spotted the Washington Post story and sent it to me. There has been very little coverage of the Ray case recently, with exceptions such as an item on the Huntley-Brinkley Report, stating that the FBI said it found Ray's fingerprints on the gun but could not link the gun ballistically to the bullet that killed King. This sounds strange indeed. Is it correct?

I realize that you cannot divulge specifics of your investigation, but let me ask two questions. Have you gleaned anything from the extradition record that is of value? And where do you go from here (for example, are you suing for release of any other documents)? Also, could you point to any recent books, magazine or newspaper articles which have shed new light on the case.

Thanks very much for your help.

Sincerely,
Albert S. Walton Jr.
Albert S. Walton Jr.

*PS If you wish to contact Tom
DeBaggio for anything, his address is:
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